

Building Renovation - Interior Projects Pamphlet

Protection from contamination in home interiors involves two stages; normal habitation, and when construction or remodeling is in progress. Normal habitation is best protected by placing barriers, both interior and exterior, during construction and then maintaining control of dust as it settles in the house by consistent vacuuming, wet mopping, and dusting. Construction in home interiors creates some special concerns because it tends to stir up dust which has accumulated over time (and may be contaminated with lead or other metals) in out of the way spaces such as basements, wall interiors, ceilings, attics, under floor boards, in ductwork, etc. Using personal protection measures during construction is very important for worker safety. It is equally important to limit the migration of contaminated dust while work is in progress in order to minimize exposure to local residents. Use of plastic covers to block off work areas and walk ways can be very effective if done properly. Panhandle Health District (PHD) may make respirators, coveralls, plastic, gravel and vacuums available to homeowners upon request for use on interior projects.

- Plastic covering (visqueen) for soil crawl spaces, basements, or floors in areas where ceiling and/or walls are being replaced shall be 6 mil. thick. Plywood or other suitable decking shall be placed over any plastic covering to protect it from wearing through or being punctured when it is in an area where it may be exposed to foot traffic.
- Plastic sheeting shall be used as temporary barriers to seal off portions of the house during construction or to seal heating or air vents (minimum thickness 4 mil.). The edges of the plastic shall be securely anchored and sealed with duct tape, tacking strips or other suitable means. All soft surface areas shall be covered or, preferably, removed from the work area, including furniture, carpeted areas, bedding, drapes, etc. Sharp objects which may come into contact with the plastic should be removed before the plastic is installed.
- Gravel to cover soil crawl spaces or basements shall be well graded, crushed with fractured surfaces to promote secure interlocking. The gravel shall be 2" if compacted and 3" if loose. The gradation of gravel shall generally be as follows:

| Sieve Size | Percent Passing |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1" | 100% |
| 3/4" | 85-100% |
| #4 | 40-75% |
| #40 | 10-30% |
| #200 | 2-15% |

Foot traffic in basements or crawl spaces which have been covered with

uncompacted gravel is highly undesirable and shall be avoided unless a geotextile is used as an underlying delineator.

Recommendations: Prior to performing interior or attic work, any insulation which is to be disturbed must be removed and bagged and the area must be thoroughly vacuumed before further work or new insulation is installed. When carpets and pads are replaced they must be rolled and wrapped in plastic and then disposed of appropriately before new floor covering is installed. Misting the carpet with water will help control dust during removal. Prior to installing new goods, the entire floor area should be vacuumed thoroughly and damp mopped. Personal protection (respirators, coveralls etc.) should be worn any time visible dust is being generated.